

## FUTURE FOR AMAZON VALLEY

Prediction of Explorer That Immigration Will Turn to Fertile Tropics May Prove True.

It is claimed that in one month of the summer 3,764 persons from other parts of the world reached Panama in search of permanent homes. A considerable contingent of these were Americans.

It is a pity that more detailed figures are not available, but even this lump account shows that Panama is reaping permanent commercial benefit from the sanitary cleanup effected by the American authorities. Also, one cannot help wondering what changes might be effected in the world's emigration currents if great areas like Brazil and Colombia were washed, scoured and disinfected in the same thorough fashion that General Gorgas inaugurated at Panama.

More than half a century ago an English explorer declared that while civilization had developed in cold climates, it was bound to come back to the fertile tropics, and he predicted that the Amazon valley would some day be the home of the richest and most enlightened society on earth. The Journal does not agree with this view, but it would be mighty interesting to see the matter tried.—Chicago Journal.

## Book Demand Lessens.

It is a matter of remark not only in European countries, but in the United States, that while periodical literature has increased because of the war the demand for "hard-backed books," a permanent literature, has fallen off and that the bibliomane, the collector of rare and old books, is no more abroad. The last of the noted buyers of old books and other curios was the late John Pierpont Morgan, whose immense wealth enabled him to indulge his love for such things.

Preceding Mr. Morgan and other book collectors of the nineteenth century was the Englishman, Richard Heber (1733-1831). The value of his library—estimated at 150,000 volumes—was placed at £100,000. Of these books, shortly after his death, 117,612 were sold in London. The auctioneer's hammer brought £56,775, for that which had cost him £77,150. Strange to say, when his will was discovered and read the library was not even mentioned. He had had the interesting labor of gathering these thousands of books and having done so apparently had no interest as to what should become of them after his death.

## Wild Things a Pest in France.

The prohibition imposed by the French government upon hunting has caused wild animals and birds to multiply so rapidly during this summer that crops in the fields and in orchards and gardens in various forest regions have been ravaged. The menace has become so serious that the government authorities are now killing rabbits, hares, pheasants and other animals and birds which have fed upon the growing crops. The killing is done on specified days by those in the communes who have proper authorization. The hunters act collectively, no individual sportsman being allowed to go out for game. Guns are not used in the work except under the supervision of gendarmes, and then only when other means of disposing of the game, such as traps and ferrets, are not available. Wherever possible, the game is taken alive, and transferred to other parts of the country for restocking purposes.

## Wax Model Costs \$1,000.

A wax model, more than a foot long, of the insect that transmits typhus fever is one of the curious features in the study of this disease by the health authorities of the United States government. The model is about one million times the size of the insect in life. More than a year was spent in making it, at a cost of about \$1,000. Typhus fever is now ravaging the armies of Europe.

## Term He Understood.

A New York divine had occasion, in his early days, to officiate at a christening in a small fishing village in Massachusetts. The proud father, a young fisherman, awkwardly holding his first born daughter, was visibly embarrassed under the scrutiny of the many eyes in the congregation, and his nervousness was not decreased by the sudden wailing of the infant as they stood at the font.

When the time for baptism arrived the clergyman noticed that the father was holding the child so that its fat legs pointed toward the font.

"Turn her this way," he whispered. But the father was too disconcerted to hear or understand.

"Turn her feet around," the minister whispered again, but there was no response.

The situation was fast becoming critical, when an old seaman in the back of the church came to the rescue. Putting his weatherbeaten hand to his mouth, he roared across the room: "Head her into the wind, Tom."

## Soldiers' Sterilizers.

Our soldiers at the front are provided with a powder which, thrown into water, instantly sterilizes the microbes in it and also gives a pleasant flavor. The men carry this powder in a pocket medicine case, which contains as well cubes for turtle soup, remedies in the form of gelatin squares, and other necessities for those who have to "fend" for themselves for days together.—London Tit-Bits.

## VICE CHARGED TO MOSQUITO

Natives of Tropics Can't Be Moral, Is Argument Made by Some Missionaries.

"Those who complain of mosquitoes here ought to be thankful that conditions here are not the same as in Central America," a returned traveler said. "As soon as a man sets foot in the wilds down there he is introduced to this insatiable pest. The mosquito will cling to him in waking and sleeping hours, testing all his powers of endurance and leaving him so thoroughly scarred that many a missionary acquires the appearance of one who has barely emerged from the throes of some deadly and pernicious disease."

In the annual report of the American Bible society, which is now being prepared for publication, many Bible distributors testify to the suffering caused by contact with mosquitoes in the hot belt countries. The insect, not heathenism, is the missionaries' worst enemy. Even the natives are engaged in constant battle with the pests. They prevent sleep, they infect the food, they carry in their trail microbes and germs of destruction.

Many missionaries believe that the mosquito is actually responsible for the vicious and deceptive traits of character which prevail among the natives. They can't possibly be happy or moral under the continued assault of such an enemy to physical comfort, it is argued.

## Hoop Petticoats.

During the reign of Charles I the hoop petticoat was worn only by wives of the lower gentry and by the wives of the citizens. In the latter part of the reign of Queen Anne it rose again; this time in another form—that of an enormous hoop. This grew to such immense proportions that during the time of George I and II, eight yards was considered the proper width.

These hoops had outstanding steel or whalebone foundations at the bottom of the skirt. In Elizabeth's time this whalebone had been used at the top, near the waist, enlarging the hips for several feet. Addison expressed himself about the subject as follows, through his Sir Roger de Coverley:

"My great-great-grandmother has on a new fashioned petticoat, except that hers is gathered at the waist. My grandmother appears as if she stood in a large drum, whereas the ladies now walk as if they were in a go-cart."

## Eating to Grow.

A certain Columbus newspaper man is proud of the precocity of his five-year-old niece. As typical of her mental agility, he tells the following:

"We were visiting recently at my brother's home. When dinner was called the child politely but firmly announced that she had no idea of dining and would remain away from the table."

"Why, Mildred, you must eat three full meals a day if you are ever to grow up and be a lady," remarked my wife, who happens to be a woman of substantial proportions.

"Carefully surveying her gratuitous adviser, the little miss said: 'Auntie, do you eat four meals a day?'"—Columbus Dispatch.

The white cattle which predominate in northern Italy are of the Piedmont breed, and are particularly suitable as work animals. A yoke of these oxen of large size weigh 3,520 to 4,400 pounds. The weight of a fine white cow of the Piedmont breed is 1,210 to 1,540 pounds. Steers attain about 1,980 pounds. The Piedmont bull reaches about 2,200 to 2,420 pounds.

Another breed of white cattle is also found in Italy, known as Roman. This breed, however, is not properly speaking, of northern Italian origin, but comes from the neighborhood of Rome, in central Italy. The oxen of this breed are also particularly adapted as work animals, but are not so good for slaughter, their meat being not of such fine quality as that of the Piedmont variety.

There is also a breed of pure white cattle in Italy, known as Chianina. These cattle are of enormous size and weight, less adapted to work, but are for slaughter. There are oxen of the Chianina breed weighing from 3,360 to 3,520 pounds each.

It is the opinion of breeders and dairymen in this district that none of the above breeds of cattle have been exported to North America. There are many breeders in Italy of the several classes of white cattle, but there are none who raise them especially for export.

## First United States Treasurer.

Alexander Hamilton was the first secretary of the treasury (1789-95). Michael Hillegas was the first United States treasurer. Hillegas was appointed to the office July 29, 1775, when he and George Clymer were chosen together in the formation of what was the germ of the treasury department. Hillegas served alone through practically his entire term, however, as Clymer soon resigned to take a seat as delegate to congress. Hillegas' term expired September 11, 1789, and he was succeeded by Samuel Meredith. Both men were from Pennsylvania. The treasury department was formally organized by act of September 2, 1789, but, strictly speaking, this was merely a reorganization, for the department under various names had been in existence since 1775.

## BURROS ARE HIS BEST PALS

Sixty-Year-Old Prospector, Starting Life Anew Causes a Sensation in San Francisco.

Harry H. Cloud, sixty years "young," with his camping outfit of two burros and a cart, has walked 1,750 miles across burning desert and rugged mountains to get a "start in life!"

And "Mirandy" Cloud has established the long-distance walker's record for babies of ten months. "Miranda" is one of Cloud's burros.

Cloud, who abandoned his mining "prospect" 30 miles from Prescott, Ariz., spread his blankets in the shadow of the Tower of Jewels, outside the exposition ground at San Francisco.

The glitter and glare of the exposition has never had a more colorful contrast than this picture of sturdy, sun-bronzed age in top boots and khaki. The "tenderfeet" of the city stood amazed.

Traffic piled up on Market street as the strange caravan from the desert plodded down the great business artery. Crowds followed. Men cheered. Babies cooed in glee.

"Sell me the baby burro?" said a Miss Louise Burton.

"Won't part 'er from 'er mother," replied Cloud.

"I'll buy them both," said Miss Burton's sister Mabel. "How much?"

"Ten thousand dollars," answered Harry.

"O!" said the girls. Then they gasped again.

"Well, these 'ere burros are my only pals," said Cloud. "Would you value a friend at less? I'm startin' after a fortune. I'll need it when I get old. An' I've got to have friends to help get it. If I have the \$10,000 I won't need burros for friends. That's proved philosophy. Get 'ap there, Jinnie!"

## TRAMP HAD GOOD BUSINESS

His Ledger Showed an Income of \$100 Which He Had Made in Thirty-Nine Days.

Tramping pays better than working when a man can make \$1,200 a year at it merely by holding out the itching palm. Elmer Norton, thirty-five years of age, with only one leg, a winning way, an aptitude for figures and a written card of appeals for help, left Parker, S. D., July 27. In 39 days, until he came into Minneapolis in the state fair week crowd recently he was in 60 towns or cities. Faithfully he put down income and expense as he went along.

He might be going yet and adding to his fortune, but the police picked him up and spoiled his game, taking a neat letter ledger from his pocket. In this Norton had ruled off into columns for towns reached, distance traveled, fare paid, when he paid any, total amount received in each town and balance on hand when leaving the town. When Norton struck Minneapolis he must have had nearly \$100 but he spent it in Minneapolis. Business was best at Windom, where he took in \$8. He averaged not less than \$3 in every town visited. Expenses were light.

## Sanitation in Skyscrapers.

The skyscrapers of New York city are to be placed under scrutiny by board of health officials, the purpose, it is said, being to ascertain whether sanitary regulations are adhered to strictly. Safety Engineering thinks "the truth is that most, if not all, of these structures were reared under the direction of numerous city departments, whose officiousness has often been more marked than their beneficent service."

"The new departure," that publication says, "will place the officials on trial as well as the owners and tenants of the skyscrapers. If there is anything about the buildings that militates against the healthfulness of their occupants, it is the fault, to some extent, of the various civic bodies that have assumed to dictate how they were to be constructed. If some of the older buildings have been deprived of the light and air that they once enjoyed, that is the fault of the building department and the law. Ancient easements of light and air were abolished long ago."

## Chinese "Altar of Heaven."

No altar on earth vies in marble majesty with the Altar of Heaven—Tien T'an—in the south of the Chinese city of Peking, which Emperor Yung-lee of the Ming dynasty reared in A. D. 1420 with its triple balustrades, stairs, and platforms of pure white marble carved miraculously, its great circle covering a wide area in the midst of a vast enclosure. Standing alone, deserted under the blue Chinese sky, it is a dream of majesty and beauty. As the great setting of a scene of ritual pomp that calls for thousands and thousands of robed celebrants, with music, incense, sacrifice, it is transcendently imposing and impressing. There the emperor knelt once a year and worshipped "the only being in the universe he could look up to"—Shang-ti—the emperor of the world above, whose court was in the sky and the spear tips of whose soldiers were the stars.

## So a Bolt Can't Slip.

A method of locking a nut upon a bolt in such a way that it cannot work loose is the object of a patent granted to William Johnson of Pittsfield, Mass. The bolt is the ordinary screw bolt, but has a flat edge down one side. Upon this a washer, made of spring steel, is placed. The straight edge of the hole in the washer fits that of the bolt, thus making it immovable.

The surface of the washer is punched with round bosses. The under surface of the nut is bored with the same number of holes as there are bosses and of equal size.

When the nut is screwed down the bosses yield under pressure until the nut is driven home, when they fit into the holes. The nut cannot work loose, but can be removed easily with a wrench.

## Nesting Golf Balls.

A golfer who was playing over the St. Neots, Huntingdonshire, links in England the other day hit his ball into a hedge, and, after searching for it some time without success, observed a bird's nest. From curiosity more than with any expectation of finding his ball there, he looked into the nest, and found not only his own ball, but three others as well. Tall story, but actual fact!

## Stopping Him.

"I shall never ask you to promise to come home early again," she said sorrowfully when he let himself in at 2 a. m.

"Why not, my dear?" he inquired quietly.

"It's bad enough to be married to a night hawk and a loafer without making a liar of you, too," she replied, and he had no comeback.

## Gave Name to Party.

The word "Radical," as applied to a British political party, originated in a speech made by Charles J. Fox in 1797, when he referred to the necessity for "radical" reform.

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New Definition.  
"The study of etymology," says the Philadelphia Record, "causes no end of trouble among that class of school children whose knowledge of English is limited to words which figure in the ordinary street conversation, and many curious results have followed. The custom usually observed by the teachers is to require such a definition of the word, then its derivation, and finally a sentence in which the word is properly used. The word 'ligament' fell to the lot of a rather diffident boy recently. He defined it properly as 'a band,' but followed up the correct derivation with this remarkable sentence: 'I was awakened up last night by hearing a brass ligament going down the street.'"

Optimistic Thought.  
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